LOUISIANA FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

FACTSHEET

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Staff Contacts:
Patrick J. Landry, P.E.
Chief , Public Works & Water Resources Division

Cindy O'Neal, CFM
Manager and Editor-in-Chief

Susan Veillon, CFM
Pam Lightfoot, CFM, Editor
Jenn Rachal, CFM
Flood Insurance Program Coordinators
[225] 379-3005

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The 4-1-1 on 310

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This column explores issues related to a community's successful implementation of CRS Activity 310 (Elevation Certificates).*

The Elevation Certificate Evaluation Report (ECER)

As part of the centralized review process, the CRS team reviews your community's Elevation Certificates for both your annual recertification and your cycle verification. We are using a computer program to help us find errors, calculate freeboard levels, and identify possible compliance issues, all of which are then analyzed by our CRS Resource Specialists. This program generates a report that assembles all this information in one place. This new report is our official feedback to all communities on their Elevation Certificate reviews and is called the Elevation Certificate Evaluation Report (ECER).

The purpose of the ECER is to (1) succinctly report any errors or National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance issues that may affect your CRS score and continued participation (because compliance issues don't always affect CRS scores); and (2) help your ISO/CRS Specialist compare freeboard levels and enclosure restrictions to your ordinance requirements when verifying credit under Activity 430.

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NFIP/CRS Corner (cont…)

In addition to spotting potential compliance issues and errors on the Elevation Certificates, the ECER shows valuable information that we gather from the Elevation Certificates, including whether an Elevation Certificate was culled (removed from consideration); building diagram number; flood zone; and freeboard levels for lowest floor, attached garages, and machinery/equipment that services the building.

In general, your first complete review of Elevation Certificates is used for verifying and scoring Activity 310 and Activity 430, while any further reviews are to make sure you meet the required 90% accuracy threshold (if it wasn't met upon first review). However, be mindful that the first ECER you receive may not be the one used by your ISO/CRS Specialist for verification and scoring. If there are missing or ineligible Elevation Certificates in the first submittal, we may need to make adjustments and generate new ECERs. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO SUBMIT THE CORRECT ELEVATION CERTIFICATES TO HELP MINIMIZE THE EXTRA WORK AND POTENTIAL CONFUSION THESE ADJUSTMENTS CAN CAUSE.

Another way to smooth the process is to double-check your Permit List:

⇒ Include only new construction and substantial improvements within your regulatory floodplain;
⇒ Make sure the Elevation Certificates match your Permit List;
⇒ Submit only Elevation Certificates that are legible; and
⇒ Re-read the Permit List Template Instructions document at the 300s tab of the CRS Resources website for a refresher.

Properly completed Elevation Certificates are crucial to your community's continued participation in CRS and your classification. If you have any questions about how this process works or the information shown on an ECER, please contact your ISO/CRS Specialist. ≡ ≡ ≡

(Taken from the February/March 2018 Issue of the NFIP/CRS UPDATE)

The State NFIP Office wants to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,

Cindy, Pam, Susan, & Jenn

BASE LEVEL ENGINEERING

Flood data to expand local risk awareness

WHAT IS BASE LEVEL ENGINEERING?

Base Level Engineering produces quality data. The Base Level Engineering production approach combines high-resolution ground elevation data, technological modeling advancements to create engineering models and flood hazard data. These analysis are produced at a large scale, like a watershed, as opposed to targeting individual stream reaches. All flood prone areas within a watershed will rely on engineering models to calculate multiple flood recurrence intervals and defines floodplains against elevational data. The data prepared provides flood hazard information to community officials and allows them to interact with analysis results and review areas identified as flood prone.

Base Level Engineering increases public awareness. Producing and sharing this data provides FEMA an opportunity to broaden and expand risk awareness conversations with local communities, ultimately strengthening FEMA's portfolio investments over time. The Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer, an interactive web portal, allows Federal, State, Regional, local, industry professionals and the public at large to interact with the Base Level Engineering results. This tool increases FEMA's ability to present comprehensive flood hazard information to the public at large, providing additional risk assessment resources where there are currently gaps in the national inventory.

Base Level Engineering will lead to flood risk reduction. Communities can access and use data prior to their regulatory Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are updated. Once a Base Level Engineering assessment is completed, FEMA releases the flood risk information on the Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer (www.infrm.us/estBFE), providing flood risk information that may be immediately used for community floodplain management activities, local land use discussions, all-hazard mitigation planning, identification of mitigation strategies, and it provides a basis for more informed community development. The datasets may be used to inform future land use decisions, support grant submissions, generate flood vulnerability assessments, prioritize flood risk reduction projects, evaluate, design and prioritize capital improvement projects. The approach ultimately will allow FEMA to build a more robust network of information, an expedited process to update regulatory products and enable future expansion to risk-based analysis and future risk scenario modeling opportunities.

FEMA

Continued on next page

Base Level Engineering is collaborative. FEMA worked with Federal, State, Regional and Local entities to develop the Base Level Engineering concept. FEMA has interacted with a variety of State and local officials to further refine the concept, and inform the identification of flood risk datasets prepared. Base Level Engineering assessments produce datasets that can be shared publically to broaden conversations about flood risk and inform opportunities for disaster resilient growth and restoration. The data produced by these assessments can be used across a variety of FEMA programs to assist in the identification and prioritization of projects. This effort allows increased transparency and data availability at all levels of government, growing the efficiency and integration of agencies working in the realm of flood risk.

Can I use Base Level Engineering to determine Base Flood Elevations in my community?

Yes, in most cases, the data made available through the Estimated BFE Viewer can be used to inform local community identification of the Base Flood Elevations.

The data on the viewer (www.infrm.us/estBFE) can be used if the stream is shown as a Zone A flood zone and the floodplains are similar in shape and width OR if the stream is not shown on the current effective FIRM.

If the stream has been studied by more detailed methods (Zone AE), then the current effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and stream profiles in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) text should be used to determine the Base Flood Elevation in detailed study areas.

Using Base Level Engineering to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

The engineering approach used to prepare Base Level Engineering meets all modeling and mapping standards outlined in FEMA's Standards for Flood Risk Projects and the results may be used to rapidly update Zone A. The models developed during these assessments can be refined by communities or FEMA to include survey and structure information to efficiently update the detailed study (Zone AE) areas experiencing growth.

Developers can download and refine engineering models to identify the floodplain changes and determine Base Flood Elevations in project areas near streams analyzed with Base Level Engineering.

Why is FEMA investing in Base Level Engineering? Each mile of stream shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) is required to be reviewed and validated by FEMA every five years. The flood hazard information is reviewed to determine if the built environment or expected flood flows have changed since the previous study was performed. A large portion of the national flood hazard inventory of stream miles is currently unknown or unverified.

How are watersheds selected for Base Level Engineering assessment? FEMA works with its Federal, State and local partners to determine areas where high resolution ground elevation data (i.e. LiDAR) is available. High resolution ground data allows more accurate results than previous Zone A efforts. Incoming requests are prioritized with help from our State partners.

Does Base Level Engineering replace the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for my community? Base Level Engineering information **does not** replace the information shown on any current effective FIRM panel in a community. The Base Level Engineering is used to assess the current validity of the existing flood hazard inventory and assists local communities to estimate Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) in Zone A areas.

Community & Public Access to Results

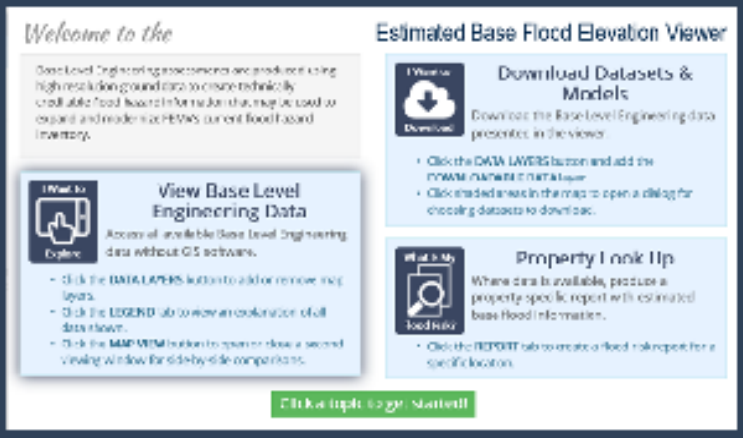
Base Level Engineering results are available for use by the public on the Estimated Base Flood Elevation Viewer at: www.inFRM.us/estBFE.

Users can interact with data through the on-line portal, view data with a singular or side-by-side window.

Users may also point-click and download:

- engineering models,
- floodplain extents, and
- estimated flood depths, and
- water surface elevations.

Users may also run a site specific report to review flood risk in their vicinity at their convenience.



Provided by Elizabeth Savage with H2O Partners USA

DOTD Certificate of Appreciation

Lisa Richardson, Ouachita Parish

Nicolas LeBlanc, City of Mandeville

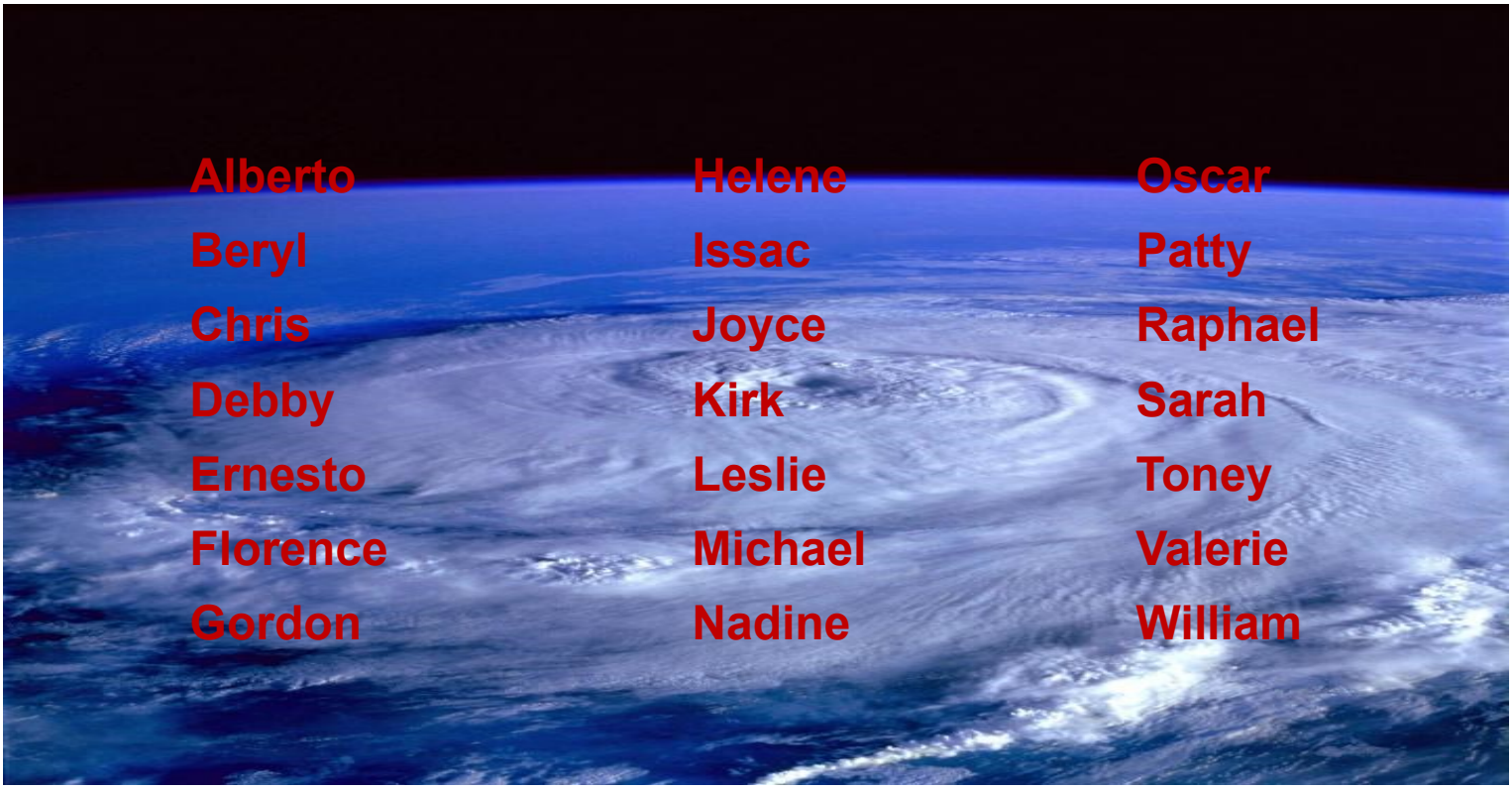
Diane Howe, FEMA Region VI

They were presented the "Certificate of Appreciation" at the 33rd Annual LFMA Conference. This certificate, presented by the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development, is given to a person with outstanding qualities in the field of floodplain management. We thank them for their dedication and service to the citizens of their community and Louisiana.

LFMA 2018 Workshops

LFMA will be hosting two (2) half-day workshops. The summer workshop will be on **July 27, 2018** in Lafayette, Louisiana. The fall workshop will be on **October 5, 2018** in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. For more information and registration, when available, please go to www.lfma.org.

2018 Hurricane Names



FEMA sets High Goal for Insurance Coverage

In March 2018, Brock Long, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), released the FEMA Strategic Plan for 2018–2022. The first goal of the plan is "Build a culture of preparedness." It includes objective 1.2, "Close the insurance gap," with an ambitious "moonshot" of doubling the number of properties covered by flood insurance by 2022. Achieving this objective will help individuals recover quickly and more completely from future floods.

FEMA is calling on its stakeholders to take actions to help close the insurance gap and ensure that Americans are protecting not only the lives they have built but also their homes, which for many are their biggest investments. State emergency managers and floodplain managers are being asked to incorporate flood insurance into preparedness and recovery messages. Industry and private sector partners are being called upon to help customers understand the risk they face from all disasters and take action to protect themselves. The general public is encouraged to contact their homeowners' insurance agents to see about purchasing a flood insurance policy.

CRS communities, which represent 70% of the NFIP policy base, are well aware of the importance of flood insurance to their residents. FEMA invites CRS communities to join in the moonshot mission over the coming years to increase the number of properties insured against flood losses throughout their communities. The CRS credit available under Activity 370 (Flood Insurance Promotion) is an incentive that can help CRS communities strengthen their efforts in this direction. FEMA is working to provide materials to help stakeholders with the moonshot mission, and the CRS will be pursuing additional moonshot mission incentives for CRS communities, which will be highlighted in future issues of the NFIP/CRS Update newsletter. ≡ ≡ ≡

(Taken from the April/May 2018 Issue of the NFIP/CRS UPDATE)

Public Works & Water Resources Division

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

As the State Coordination Office between the DHS/FEMA Regional Office and the communities of Louisiana that belong to the National Flood Insurance Program [NFIP], it is our job to provide any guidance or assistance needed to our Louisiana communities in order to assure the NFIP regulations are carried out and violations prevented. In order to better serve you, please take a moment to tell us how we're doing and how we could improve. Thank you,

Cindy O'Neal, CFM – Pam Lightfoot, CFM – Susan Veillon, CFM — Jenn Rachal, CFM

CUSTOMER SERVICE SURVEY

Have you had contact with our office within the last 6 months? YES □ NO □

if yes, please check one: Email □ Phone □ Meeting □

(please circle a number)

	Strongly Agree	**Agree**	**Neutral**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**
Staff was friendly and courteous	5	4	3	2	1
I was treated with respect	5	4	3	2	1
Staff was knowledgeable	5	4	3	2	1
My questions & concerns were addressed in a timely manner	5	4	3	2	1
The staff provided me with useful information	5	4	3	2	1
I had an overall positive experience dealing with the staff of Floodplain Management	5	4	3	2	1

How could we improve our services?

PLEASE MAIL completed survey to:

LADOTD Floodplain Management - Section 64

P.O. Box 94245

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

Our goal is flood loss reduction . . .

If you or someone you know would like to receive future copies of this newsletter please contact our office:

LA DOTD
Floodplain Management Section
1201 Capitol Access Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

PHONE: 225-379-3005
FAX: 225-379-3002
E-MAIL: pam.lightfoot@la.gov
WEBSITE: http://floods.dotd.la.gov

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!