



**FEMA**

September 15, 2010

Les Sterman  
Chief Supervisor of Construction & the Works  
Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council  
104 United Drive  
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Dear Mr. Sterman:

On July 22, 2009, FEMA aligned the flood mapping processes for Metro St. Louis by issuing concurrent appeal periods for Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and for the City of St. Louis and St. Louis and St. Charles Counties, Missouri. Since then, FEMA has worked closely with impacted communities to address concerns regarding the proposed maps and FEMA flood mapping process. The City of St. Louis submitted no appeals to the proposed maps and is prepared to move forward in the mapping process to ensure that their residents are provided the most up to date flood risk information. Consequently, FEMA is moving forward with the new flood maps for the City of St. Louis, with a targeted effective date early in 2011.

FEMA is reviewing the appeals and protests received for St. Louis and St. Charles Counties concurrently with the findings of a mapping study recently completed by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). FEMA anticipates issuing revised preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for St. Louis and St. Charles Counties on September 30, 2010 that include changes resulting from data received during the appeal period, and data from the SEMA mapping project. FEMA and SEMA anticipate community meetings during the last week of October, 2010 to discuss the changed preliminary flood maps. FEMA plans to initiate an appeal period for streams with new or revised Base Flood Elevations in early November, 2010.

FEMA recognizes the importance of keeping the maps aligned for Metro St. Louis communities and is proceeding accordingly for the map updates in Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, St. Charles, and St. Louis Counties. During the month of September, FEMA will issue appeal resolution letters for communities within Madison, St. Clair, St. Charles, and St. Louis Counties. The resolution letters will inform communities of FEMA technical findings and the path forward. This will include information about the independent Scientific Resolution Panel (SRP) process (defined below), which will be available to communities as part of the ongoing study.

To supplement the process referenced above, FEMA is making available the SRP to review and resolve conflicting technical data, which will consist of up to five independent and neutral experts on hydrology, hydraulics, mapping and other pertinent sciences. As of the initiation date of the SRP process (scheduled for November 1, 2010), a community that has gone through the statutory appeal process, is dissatisfied with FEMA's appeal resolution, and has not had a Letter of Final Determination (LFD) issued for the

new maps may request their appeal be brought into the SRP process. Based on the submitted data, the SRP will deliberate and render a written decision outlining their findings. The determination of the SRP will become the recommendation to the FEMA Administrator for resolution; and will not be subject to further staff review within FEMA.

Following the issuance of appeal and protest resolutions this month for communities in Madison, St. Clair, St. Charles, and St. Louis Counties, FEMA will reach out to your community to address questions or concerns regarding the mapping process and to work with you to inform citizens of the implications and responsibilities that accompany the issuance of new flood maps. At this time, FEMA anticipates issuance of LFDs for Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, St. Charles, and St. Louis Counties in June, 2011. LFD issuance serves to finalize the new maps and initiate a 6-month time period for your community to adopt or show evidence of adoption of the appropriate floodplain management regulations pursuant to the NFIP regulations, prior to the effective date of the new maps. The effective date of the new maps is currently scheduled for December, 2011, six additional months from the date of LFD issuance.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you need additional information or assistance, please contact Suzanne Vermeer of my staff by telephone at (312) 408-5245 or by email at [suzanne.vermeer@dhs.gov](mailto:suzanne.vermeer@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Norbert F. Schwartz  
Mitigation Division Director  
FEMA, Region V

cc: Paul Osman, State NFIP Coordinator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
John Bishop, Project Manager, Illinois Map Modernization Project