

10 February 1998

Re: NEPA Technical Inquiry 0234 - Floodplain Management Services Program

Dear NEPA Call-In User:

This letter is in response to your January 26, 1998 request for information about the Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Specifically, you wanted to know what this program offers Federal agencies and the costs involved in receiving floodplain services from the USACE. You requested contacts within the USACE for this program and would like NEPA Call-In to forward the information in this Technical Inquiry to the GSA Environmental Quality Advisory Group (EQAG) members.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

NEPA Call-In determined the FPMS provides floodplain management services to State, regional, and local governments, non-Federal public agencies, Federal agencies, and the private sector. Small fees are required of Federal agencies and the private sector requesting assistance. We are providing you with a FPMS Program Managers telephone list broken down by USACE Districts.

DETAILED FINDINGS

NEPA Call-In reviewed a summary of the FPMS Program on the USACE world wide web (www) site, located at www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cwfpms/fpms.htm. The objective of the FPMS program is, "to foster public understanding of the options for dealing with flood hazards and to promote prudent use and management of the Nation's floodplains." The authority for this program stems from Section 206 of the 1960 Flood Control Act (PL 86-645), as amended.

According to the www document, services are offered to State, regional and local governments, Indian Tribes, and non-Federal public agencies free of charge. Services to Federal agencies and the private sector are provided on a cost-recovery basis. A schedule of charges for services with responses of one day or less is based on the level and effort of the services. Costs range from \$25.00 to \$325.00 for one-day responses. Responses requiring more than one day of effort require a "Letter Request" which includes: a previously negotiated time and cost estimate, with charges based on District costs, a list of available data, and indication of new data.

Two types of floodplain services are available from the USACE FPMS program; General Technical Services and General Planning Guidance. General Technical Services seek to develop or interpret site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows; flood formation and timing; flood depths or stages; flood-water velocities; and the extent, duration, and frequency of flooding. General Technical Services also provide information on natural and cultural floodplain resources of note, and flood loss potentials before and after the use of floodplain management measures. General Planning Guidance includes assistance and guidance in the form of "Special Studies" on all aspects of floodplain management planning including the possible impacts of off-floodplain land use

changes on the physical, socio-economic, and environmental conditions of the floodplain. Special Studies often include:

- * Floodplain Delineation/Flood Hazard Evaluation Studies;
- * Dam Break Analysis Studies;
- * Hurricane Evacuation Studies;
- * Flood Warning/Preparedness Studies;
- * Regulatory Floodway Studies;
- * Comprehensive Floodplain Management Studies;
- * Flood Damage Reduction Studies;
- * Urbanization Impact Studies;
- * Stormwater Management Studies;
- * Flood Proofing Studies; and
- * Inventory of Flood Prone Structures.

NEPA Call-In contacted Mr. Maurice Parker, FPMS Program Manager, Headquarters, USACE, (202) 761-1854, to confirm the above information. Mr. Parker stated the above information is accurate, and provided NEPA Call-In with an updated telephone list of FPMS Program managers (enclosed), broken down by USACE Districts.

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Sincerely,

(Original Signed)

NEPA Call-In Researcher