

November 12, 1998

Re: Call-in Technical Inquiry 0386 - Floodplain Determination

Dear NEPA User:

This letter is in response to your August 12, 1998 request for a floodplain determination for a GSA building located in your region.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

NEPA Call-In obtained a determination that the property is neither in the 500-year floodplain nor in a special flood hazard area. This information was provided to you via fax on August 17, 1998. NEPA Call-In's detailed findings are provided below.

DETAILED FINDINGS

NEPA Call-In contacted Flood Zone Determination Services, Carnegie, Pennsylvania (800) 841-0662 and requested a standard flood determination for the property. The determination form we received (enclosed) stated the property is in Flood Zone 'C' and that the building is not in a special flood hazard area. The form stated that the determination was made based on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Panel Number 555575, January 2, 1976.

To determine the meaning of Flood Zone 'C,' NEPA Call-In reviewed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) document 'Guidelines and Specifications for Study Contractors,' January 1995. The document stated that areas outside the limits of the 500-year floodplain were formerly designated Zone C, and are currently designated Zone X (unshaded).

NEPA Call-In then contacted the FEMA Map Service Center (800) 358-9616 to ensure that the 1976 NFIP map was the most current one available. The FEMA Map Service Center confirmed that was the latest map available.

Finally, while this property appears to be outside the floodplain, Executive Order 11988, 'Floodplain management,' directs GSA to consider both direct AND INDIRECT support of floodplain development. The above determination does not consider if the proposed structure could indirectly impact the floodplain. Therefore, GSA should also determine if there could be any indirect impacts from the proposed action before proceeding.

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Sincerely,

(Original Signed)

NEPA Call-In Researcher