

**EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:**

None.

Dated: October 15, 2008.

**Hugo Teufel III,**

*Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security.*

[FR Doc. E8-25207 Filed 10-22-08; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4410-10-P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

#### **Availability of Flood Hazard Maps and Data**

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is completing the update and conversion to digital of the National Flood Insurance Program flood hazard map inventory. As part of the Flood Map Modernization Program, FEMA will discontinue the public distribution of paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Flood Insurance Study reports, and related flood hazard map products.

FEMA will provide communities where the flood hazard information is updated with an updated paper map to satisfy local regulatory requirements for a paper map product.

For all other requests, FEMA will distribute digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps, Flood Insurance Study reports, and related flood hazard map products in place of the paper versions. Over the past several years, FEMA has transitioned from paper maps to digital map images and digital flood hazard data as the primary flood hazard information products. These products will still be available through the FEMA Map Service Center. This change will reduce duplication of effort and reduce the cost for updating flood hazard maps.

**DATES:** This change is effective as of October 1, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Information about FEMA Flood Hazard Maps and Data is available on the Map Service Center Web site <http://msc.fema.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul Rooney, Data and Dissemination Branch, Mitigation Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472, ([paul.rooney@dhs.gov](mailto:paul.rooney@dhs.gov)).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for identifying

high risk flood areas to support the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These areas have historically been identified on paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Over the past several years, FEMA has introduced new digital products including digital map images (the full size FIRM Scans and letter size FIRMettes) and digital geospatial flood hazard data (the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Database product and National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL)). These digital products now make up the vast majority of the flood hazard information distributed by FEMA and are equivalent to the paper maps for any official activities under the NFIP.

FEMA will continue to provide local governments a paper copy of their flood hazard map and flood insurance study report when the map is updated by FEMA. FEMA will discontinue all other distribution of paper maps and study reports beginning with map update projects where the letter of final determination is issued on or after October 1, 2009. The letter of final determination is issued six months before new flood maps become effective for NFIP regulatory purposes.

FEMA will continue to provide digital flood hazard data products for Internet download, on CD-ROM, and via Web Mapping Service. Federal, State, and local government customers that have been receiving paper products will now receive digital flood hazard maps and data, and continue to be exempt from fees (specified in 42 U.S.C. 4101).

This change will allow FEMA to realize significant cost savings in the map update process by eliminating the need to generate large format film negatives to support offset printing. It will also save the cost of printing and distributing the paper maps to fee exempt customers. This change simplifies the products available depicting flood hazard for a location.

The FEMA Map Service Center provides complete information about the digital flood hazard data products, free tools, and easy-to-follow instructions for using them at <http://msc.fema.gov>.

Dated: October 9, 2008.

**Michael K. Buckley,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator, Mitigation Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**[FEMA-1801-DR]**

#### **North Carolina; Major Disaster and Related Determinations**

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of North Carolina (FEMA-1801-DR), dated October 8, 2008, and related determinations.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* October 8, 2008.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Peggy Miller, Disaster Assistance Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3886.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated October 8, 2008, the President declared a major disaster under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the Stafford Act), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of North Carolina resulting from Tropical Storm Hanna during the period of September 4-15, 2008, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the Stafford Act). Therefore, I declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of North Carolina.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Public Assistance in the designated areas, Hazard Mitigation throughout the State, and any other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act that you deem appropriate. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Hazard Mitigation will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs. Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance also will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs, except for any particular projects that are eligible for a higher Federal cost-sharing percentage under the FEMA Public Assistance Pilot Program instituted pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 777. If Other Needs Assistance under Section 408 of the Stafford Act is later requested and warranted, Federal funding under that program also will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.