



FEMA

September 30, 2011

The Honorable Bruce Lyon
Mayor, Village of Dolgeville
41 North Main Street
Dolgeville, NY 13329

RE: Flood Risk Study Project Update – Herkimer, NY

On March 10, 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate issued the Agency's formal response to inquiries concerning FEMA's current analysis method for communities affected by levees. FEMA received the inquiries from Members of both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. In his reply, Administrator Fugate committed to assess the approach currently being used to analyze areas behind non-accredited levees and develop more accurate approaches to modeling the flood hazards in these areas on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Administrator Fugate also committed to a temporary hold on the issuance of Letters of Final Determination (LFDs) for communities impacted by levees or levee systems which employed the then current approach for non-accredited levees.

Although the analysis modeling and flood hazard mapping of these levee areas have been placed on hold in order to develop additional approaches; the flood risk which these levee systems were built to reduce remains. As our agency develops these new analytical approaches to mapping the impacts of levees, we trust that you will continue to promote flood risk awareness and local preparedness to the residents within your community.

To avoid undue cost and confusion, this letter is intended to inform you of the effects of this decision on your community and the Herkimer County Flood Insurance Study currently underway.

FEMA conducted a review of the levee impacted area along the right descending bank of East Canada Creek within the Village of Dolgeville (Preliminary Panel 36043C0882E), Herkimer County FIS, and has determined that the levee does not significantly impede conveyance and no additional analysis other than the natural floodplain hydraulic analysis was necessary, e.g. small levees with minimal impact on the 1-percent-annual-chance flood conveyance. Since the flood hazard depicted on the current effective FIRM was not determined using the FEMA's current approach for non-accredited levees, the project will continue to move forward toward issuing the Preliminary FIRM panels for this study area.

We hope this information helps clarify the current status of your study and how FEMA will proceed in the future. If you have any questions, please contact Robert Schaefer, Civil Engineer, FEMA Region II Risk Analysis Branch, at (212) 680-8808 or by e-mail at Robert.Schaefer@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Timothy P. Crowley

Director

Mitigation Division

DHS/FEMA Region II

26 Federal Plaza

New York, New York

Timothy.Crowley@dhs.gov

cc: Mr. William Nechamen, NFIP NY State Coordinator
Alan Fuchs, NYSDEC, Director of Bureau of Flood Protection and Dam Safety
NYSDEC Regional Representative
Jim Thomas, Village Engineer
Robyn Boyd, Study Manager