




FEMA

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mitigation Division Directors
Regions I - X

FROM: 
David I. Maurstad, Director
Mitigation Division

SUBJECT: Procedure Memorandum No. 43 – Guidelines for
Identifying Provisionally Accredited Levees

Background: Early in the implementation of the Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) Effort, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized that the role of levees in flood risk reduction would be an important part of the efforts of Map Mod. Further, it was acknowledged that the condition of many levees had not been assessed since they were originally mapped as providing 1-percent-annual-chance (base) flood protection. Because of this, FEMA initiated a revised process to gain a better understanding of the actual flood risks for those citizens living and working behind levees nationwide.

On August 22, 2005, FEMA issued Procedure Memorandum No. 34, *Interim Guidance for Studies Including Levees*. The purpose of the memorandum was to help clarify the responsibility of community officials or other parties seeking recognition of a levee by providing information identified during a study/mapping project. Oftentimes, documentation regarding levee design, accreditation, and impacts on flood hazard mapping is outdated or missing altogether. To remedy this, Procedure Memorandum No. 34 provides interim guidance on procedures to minimize delays in near-term studies/mapping projects to aid our mapping partners in properly assessing how to handle levee mapping issues.

Issue:

As part of a study/mapping project, it is the levee owner's or community's responsibility to provide documentation that the levee meets the requirements of Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 65.10 of the National Flood Insurance Regulations (44 CFR Section 65.10). Issuance of the required documentation acts to prevent the levee from being shown as not providing base flood protection on a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). Procedure Memorandum No. 34 allows for the issuance of a deadline to the community for submitting the required documentation.

While 44 CFR Section 65.10 documentation is being compiled, the release of more up-to-date DFIRM panels for other parts of a community or county may be delayed. To

