

# Association of State FloodPlain Managers

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Meeting: FEMA and ASFPM

Subject: Map Modernization

Date: October 1, 2003

Participants: FEMA, Washington - Mike Howard, Mary Jean Pajak, Dee Woodard, Allyson Lichtenfels, Paul Rooney, Kevin Long, Kathy Miller, Doug Bellomo, Cindy Croxdale, Anne Flowers, Priscilla Scruggs

FEMA Region V - Lee Traeger, Mary Jo Mullen (by conference phone)

ASFPM - Alan Lulloff, Mark Riebau

## I. **Status of Procurement of National Mapping Contractor**

A contractor has been selected to serve as the National Service Provider (NSP). The selected firm will be submitting a proposal to meet FEMA objectives, rather than simply responding to a specific scope of work as in past procurements. Negotiations are expected to take at least a month to complete, but as of October 1 have not yet been initiated. The NSP will be measured by "outcomes" not hours. An example of an outcome, as stated in the Map Modernization Statement of Objectives, is to produce digitized, final flood maps approved by local governments within 36 months from receipt of study requirements, regardless of who is doing the work - Regional IDIQ, CTP, or NSP.

## II. **Regional Coordination**

FEMA National has been working with Regions 3, 6 & 9 on a pilot effort for implementing Map Modernization in the regional offices. The pilot effort is nearing completion, and program management implementation efforts for Map Modernization are underway in all 10 regions. A Map Mod Regional Conference was held in Shepherdstown, WV in late August. This conference included a focus on performance-based program management.

## III. **State Business Plans**

States should have received a "Business Plan Template" from the FEMA Region in mid-September. It is the intent that the State Business Plans (SBP) would be used by the Regions to develop a Regional Business Plan (RBP). In those instances where a State proposes to accept a majority of the workload associated with managing the Map Mod effort the Region's plan should reflect a much reduced level of effort. In those instances where the State intends to assume few responsibilities beyond current NFIP activities the Region's plan would need to identify a greater level of effort. The RBPs will identify how they will be supporting the overall national effort. Taken in total, the 10 Regional Business Plans - including the State Business Plans - will support the National Business Plan (the Map Mod Exhibit 300) submitted to OMB with annual budget requests.

It is recognized that all plans - the National Plan, the Regional Plans and each State Plan - will be "living" documents that will need to be updated annually. It is further acknowledged that planning for post-Map Mod must be started now. Maintenance of flood maps, after they are modernized, must be considered in the business planning process.

#### **IV. Expectations**

USGS' 7 and ½ minute quadrangle maps were the base topographic maps used to develop many of the existing FIRMs. Cartographic processes at the time introduced errors. USGS has scanned and georeferenced their 7 and ½ minute quadrangle maps (calling them Digital Raster Graphics or DRGs). These DRGs provide a nationwide geospatial data set that can be used to ensure that updated FIRMs match topography unless a more detailed digital base map is made available. FEMA, and its mapping partners, will focus on producing a georeferenced flood "theme" to be superimposed over a base map. Topographic mapping in the floodplain may be funded as part of a project, but use of the best available topographic data will be the preference.

It is also expected that:

- Flood hazard data will be updated on streams where the need to update flood hazard data and the costs are justified
- The level of detail will be adjusted to reflect the risk
- Nearly all approximate A-Zones will be updated
- Bad information will not be republished
- Some funds will be used to address low-risk areas with limited resources
- State Business plans will be incorporated into national plan
- State and local cost share will be recognized, and
- "High performers" will be rewarded

#### **V. Reporting Requirements for CTP Agreements**

ASFPM provided an example of a CTP agreement for which the level of detail requested was simply not available. Most, if not all, of the information requested could be developed once a study had been properly scoped and the costs carefully estimated, but this can't be done until after a scoping meeting has been held. It was agreed that the guidance for developing a CTP agreement needs to be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of information that should be requested prior, and subsequent to, the scoping meeting and estimation of study costs. ASFPM suggested that since North Carolina is recognized as an effective state CTP North Carolina's reporting measures be used as a model for all state Business Plans.

In general, monitoring and reporting requirements are stipulated in 44 CFR 13.40 and financial reporting requirements are in 44 CFR 13.41.

#### **VI. Coastal Studies**

Region 9 is leading the effort to look at coastal flood hazard study methodologies. The study will evaluate the varying methodologies and techniques on the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf coasts and result in recommendations as to which method(s) should be applied. The study currently underway by the Corps of Engineers for the Gulf Coast will be incorporated into FEMA evaluation. A Technical Advisory Committee will be formed to evaluate the differing methodologies. Draft recommendations are due early next year with final guidelines planned to be published before the end of FY04. Coastal restudies will be initiated in FY04 subsequent to publication of the final guidelines.

The Great Lakes were not part of the effort described above. Region V has an IDIQ contract with the Corps of Engineers that can be employed if it is deemed necessary to develop additional guidelines for the Great Lakes coast. ASFPM recommended that Region V proceed with revisions to the Great Lakes guidelines so that guidance for the Great Lakes is completed when

guidance for the rest of the coasts are completed. ASFPM indicated that they would poll the Great Lakes states to identify any concerns regarding the current guidelines. The coastal flood hazard methodology for the Great Lakes is described in Appendix D of FEMA's *Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners*, Section D.3.

VII. **Miscellaneous**

- FY03 mapping efforts will affect 50% of the population
- Cost-Schedule-Quality (CSQ) performance measures will be the same for all studies and mapping products regardless of whether the maps are produced by the NSP, Regional IDIQ, or CTP.
- Performance data must be readily available
- OMB has implemented a "Results Based Process" that FEMA must comply with, consequently, all mapping "partners" must meet the same measurements.
- The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) should be viewed as a resource for States in preparing their Business Plan. NFIP Coordinators should contact their respective State GIS Coordinators to discuss the state's GIS data and other resources. More information can be found at the following website:  
[http://www.nsgic.org/about\\_nsgic/index.cfm](http://www.nsgic.org/about_nsgic/index.cfm)