FEMA POLICY: Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures
FEMA Policy #XXX-XX

BACKGROUND
This policy is intended to provide clarification and technical assistance to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) State Coordinators and local floodplain administrators regarding implementation of the minimum NFIP construction requirements for agricultural structures and accessory structures, as defined in this policy, which are located within floodprone areas. This policy supersedes portions of existing guidance related to agricultural structures and accessory structures found in FEMA Technical Bulletin 1 “Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures” and FEMA Technical Bulletin 7 “Wet Floodproofing Requirements”.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this policy is to acknowledge the unique characteristics and uses of agricultural structures and accessory structures in order to ensure sound development within floodprone areas and promote public health, safety and welfare. This policy aims to clarify the definition of agricultural structures and accessory structures, and provide a clear, consistent process for ensuring compliance with NFIP requirements for those structures located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

This policy does not intend to provide clarification on eligibility or application of insurance for agricultural structures or accessory structures. Agricultural and accessory (or appurtenant) structures are generally eligible for flood insurance coverage under the NFIP. See FEMA’s Flood Insurance Manual for information on the rules governing building coverage and/or contents coverage for agricultural structures.

PRINCIPLES
FEMA recognizes that clear criteria for agricultural structures and accessory structures supports floodplain management principles and provides a consistent approach to implementation. Agricultural structures and accessory structures are non-residential structures, and the NFIP requires non-residential structures to be elevated or dry-floodproofed. However, in accordance with NFIP statute and regulations, wet floodproofing may be an allowable alternative mitigation technique for certain agricultural structures and accessory structures in certain situations. This policy explains the minimum requirements for agricultural
structures and accessory structures in general, and the criteria for when and how wet floodproofing may be used in specific situations, consistent with the principles outlined below.

A. This policy is applicable to agricultural structures and accessory structures, as defined in this document.

B. Agricultural structures and accessory structures are not exempt from floodplain management requirements.

C. Development in the SFHA must meet the minimum NFIP requirements identified in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 60.3.

D. In accordance with the design and performance standards of 44 C.F.R. 60.3, non-residential structures located in the SFHA must be elevated or dry floodproofed to or above the base flood elevation (BFE).

E. In accordance with Section 1315(a)(2) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (NFIA) (42 U.S.C. 4022(a)(2)), agricultural structures that are repetitive loss structures or have been substantially damaged by flood may be repaired or rebuilt to pre-damaged condition without elevating or dry floodproofing.

F. In accordance with the design and performance standards of 44 C.F.R. 60.3(c)(5), wet floodproofing requires openings that allow the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

G. In accordance with the provisions of 44 C.F.R. 60.6, and State and local laws, NFIP communities may be able to allow certain agricultural structures and accessory structures to be wet floodproofed rather than elevated or dry floodproofed. Typically, communities may either grant a variance for an individual structure, or request approval from FEMA for a community-wide exception.

REQUIREMENTS
This section provides the floodplain management development and construction standards for agricultural structures and accessory structures located within the SFHA, as well as the requirements for granting exceptions to the minimum standards.

A. DEFINITIONS OF AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURE
Outcome: FEMA provides a clear NFIP definition of agricultural structures and accessory structures for floodplain management purposes, consistent with the NFIA and NFIP regulations.

1. An agricultural structure means a structure, as defined by the NFIP in 44 C.F.R. 59.1, which is used exclusively for the production, harvesting, storage, raising, or drying of agricultural commodities and livestock; and specifically excludes any structures used for human habitation.

   a. The NFIP recognizes aquaculture to be farming that is conducted in water. As such, the NFIP considers an aquaculture structure to be included within the NFIP definition of agricultural structure for floodplain management purposes, provided that:
i. the aquaculture structure meets the NFIP definition of a structure, for floodplain management purposes (walled and roofed), and

ii. the aquaculture structure is used exclusively for the production, harvesting, storage, raising or drying of aquatic animals and plants.

b. The following may be related to agricultural purposes or uses, but are not considered to be agricultural structures by the NFIP:

i. Structures that do not meet the exclusive use requirement of the NFIP definition of agricultural structure, such as:

   1. structures used for human habitation, whether as a permanent residence or as temporary or seasonal living quarters;
   2. structures used by the public, such as a place of employment or entertainment; and
   3. structures with multiple, or mixed, uses where one or more use does not meet the definition of agricultural structure.

ii. Development that does not meet the NFIP definition of a structure. Examples include, but are not necessarily limited to, a pole barn (roofed but not walled) or a holding pen or aquaculture tank/pool (walled but not roofed).

2. An accessory structure means a structure, as defined by the NFIP in 44 C.F.R. 59.1, which is on the same parcel of property as a principal structure and the use of which is incidental to the use of the principal structure; and, specifically excludes structures used for human habitation.

   a. Examples of accessory structures include, but are not necessarily limited to, two-car detached garages (or smaller), carports, storage and tool sheds, and small boathouses.

   b. The following may have uses that are incidental or accessory to the primary structure on a parcel, but are not considered to be accessory structures by the NFIP:

      i. Structures in which any portion is used for human habitation, whether as a permanent residence or as temporary or seasonal living quarters, such as a detached garage or carriage house that includes an apartment or guest quarters, or a detached guest house on the same parcel as a primary residence.

      ii. Development that does not meet the NFIP definition of a structure, such as a gazebo, pavilion, picnic shelter, or carport that is open on all sides (roofed but not walled).
B. MINIMUM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES.

Outcome: FEMA specifies clear construction requirements for agricultural structures and accessory structures located in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). Consistent with the minimum standards outlined in 44 C.F.R. 60.3, communities must:

1. Require permits for all proposed development and proposed construction located within the SFHA, and ensure all other necessary permits have been received from government agencies from which approval is required by Federal or State law.

2. Determine whether proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding.

3. Require new construction and substantial improvements to be:
   
   a. designed (or modified) and adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy,
   
   b. constructed with materials resistant to flood damage,
   
   c. constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damages,
   
   d. constructed with electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment and other service facilities that are designed and/or located to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding.

4. Require that new construction and substantial improvements in A zones (including A, AE, A1-30, AH, AO and AR/A99) be constructed with the lowest floor elevated to or above the base flood elevation or, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be dry floodproofed.

5. Require that new construction and substantial improvements in V zones (including V, VE and V1-30) be elevated on pilings or columns so that the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor is elevated to or above the base flood elevation.

6. Obtain and maintain a record of the elevation of the lowest floor for all new construction and substantial improvements and, if applicable, the elevation to which the structure has been floodproofed.

C. EXCEPTIONS TO THE MINIMUM FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

Outcome: FEMA articulates clear requirements for granting exceptions to the minimum floodplain management standards for agricultural structures and accessory structures.
1. **Agricultural Structures.** Exceptions to the elevation or dry floodproofing requirement for agricultural structures are allowed in the following circumstances and in accordance with the associated requirements explained below.

   a. Per Section 1315(a)(2)(A) of the NFIA, the land use and control measures of a participating NFIP community may provide, at the discretion of the appropriate State or local authority, for the repair and restoration to pre-damaged conditions of an agricultural structure that is a repetitive loss structure or has been substantially damaged by flood.

      i. Substantial damage must be solely from flood-related damages. If damages are from another sources, or a mix of sources, the agricultural structure must meet elevation or dry floodproofing requirements when repaired or rebuilt.

      ii. The language of the provision must be reviewed and approved by FEMA to confirm consistency with the minimum NFIP requirements and incorporated into the community floodplain management ordinance.

      iii. The repair or restoration must be to pre-damaged condition only. Substantial improvements require the agricultural structure to meet elevation or dry floodproofing requirements.

      iv. Repair and restoration to pre-damaged condition requires a floodplain development permit.

      v. In accordance with Section 1315(a)(2)(C) of the NFIA, disaster assistance is not available for agricultural structures repaired or restored to pre-damaged condition.

      vi. In accordance with Section 1315(a)(2)(B) of the NFIA, FEMA may deny flood insurance coverage unless the agricultural structure is wet floodproofed.

   b. The appropriate State or local authority may grant a variance to allow an agricultural structure to be wet floodproofed in lieu of the elevation or dry floodproofing requirement, under the following conditions:

      i. The variance must be for an individual agricultural structure, as defined in this policy.

      ii. Justification for the variance must be on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the criteria established in 44 C.F.R. 60.6(a) and the variance must include the following additional requirements:

      1. The agricultural structure must be located within an A zone (including A, AE, A1-30, AH, AO, AR zones).
2. The agricultural structure must represent a minimal investment and be designed to have a low-damage potential.

3. The agricultural structure must meet the exclusive use requirement of the NFIP definition of agricultural structure.

4. The agricultural structure must be anchored to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement.

5. The portions of the agricultural structure located below the base flood elevation must be constructed with flood-resistant materials.

6. Mechanical and utility equipment for the agricultural structure must be elevated or dry floodproofed to or above the base flood elevation.

7. The agricultural structure must comply with the floodway encroachment provisions of the NFIP.

8. The agricultural structure must be wet floodproofed to protect the structure from hydrostatic pressure. The wet floodproofing design must meet the NFIP minimum openings requirements and must allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
   
   a. Engineered openings must be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect.
   
   b. Non-engineered openings must meet or exceed the following minimum requirements:
      
      i. Include at least two openings
      
      ii. Net opening area must be at least one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area
      
      iii. The bottom of the opening must not be higher than one foot above grade
      
      iv. Screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices are permissible providing they:
         
         1. Allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters
         
         2. Do not require manual operation or the presence of a person (or persons) to allow automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.
iii. The variance must provide the minimum relief necessary and the community should consider requiring the use of mixed mitigation (e.g., elevating as much as possible before wet floodproofing, wet floodproofing the structure and elevating or dry floodproofing the machinery, equipment and contents).

iv. The variance must restrict use of the agricultural structure in accordance with the exclusive use requirement of the NFIP definition of agricultural structure.

v. Communities electing to allow wet floodproofing of agricultural structures are encouraged to include the criteria for receiving a variance to wet floodproof agricultural structures within their local floodplain management ordinances.

vi. Wet floodproofing is not an appropriate mitigation technique in certain circumstances. Due to the increased risk, a variance for wet floodproofing is NOT permissible for:

1. an agricultural structure located in a V zone (including V, VE and V1-30 zones). Due to the greater risk associated with waves, agricultural structures in V zones must be elevated or dry floodproofed in accordance with the minimum V-zone design and construction requirements of 44 C.F.R. 60.3(e).

2. an agricultural structure which, if flooded, would create a threat to public safety, health and welfare. Such structures include, but may not be limited to: confinement operations, structures with liquefied natural gas terminals, and facilities producing and storing highly volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials. Ideally, these structures should be located outside of the SFHA; however, when located within the SFHA, these structures must be elevated or dry floodproofed in accordance with minimum NFIP requirements.

c. In accordance with the provisions of 44 C.F.R. 60.6(b), a NFIP community may request from FEMA a community-wide exception to allow certain agricultural structures to be wet floodproofed in lieu of the elevation or dry floodproofing requirement of the NFIP.

   i. The community must submit a request, in writing, to the FEMA Regional Office, including:

      1. the nature and extent of, and reasons for, the exception;

      2. a description of the extraordinary circumstances and local conditions that cause a hardship or inequity for elevating or dry floodproofing agricultural structures;
3. sufficient supporting justification, such as economic, environmental, topographic, hydrologic and hydraulic conditions and data, or other scientific and technical data, as well as data with respect to the impact on public safety and the environment;

4. sufficient supporting information regarding other planning considerations and factors that justify wet floodproofing as an appropriate alternative mitigation design, including flooding characteristics (frequency, duration, depth, etc.), flood warning time, safety and access, emergency operations plans, protection of contents and equipment, as well as any other conditions, requirements or restrictions the community proposes to enforce for an agricultural structure to be eligible for the exception to wet floodproof; and

5. the proposed ordinance language for allowing wet floodproofing of certain agricultural structures, consistent with the minimum criteria outlined in Section C, Part 1(b)(ii) of this policy.

ii. The proposed community-wide exception request must include the following conditions and restrictions:

1. The agricultural structure must meet the NFIP definition of agricultural structure, including the exclusive use requirement.

2. Due to the increased risk, wet floodproofing is NOT permissible and elevation or dry floodproofing is required in the SFHA if:

   a. the agricultural structure is located in a V zone (including V, VE and V1-30 zones), or

   b. the agricultural structure, if flooded, would create a threat to public safety, health and welfare. Such structures include, but may not be limited to: confinement operations, structures with liquefied natural gas terminals, and facilities producing and storing highly volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials.

iii. The FEMA Regional Office will complete an initial review and evaluation of the request and work with the community to ensure sufficient documentation and justification for the request has been received prior to submitting the request to FEMA Headquarters for final review and approval.

iv. FEMA will prepare a Special Environmental Clearance to determine whether the proposed community-wide exception will have a significant impact on the human environment. The decision to prepare an Environmental Impact
Statement, or other environmental documentation, will be made in accordance with FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1.

v. After review and evaluation of the request, FEMA will notify the community whether the requested community-wide exception is approved.

1. If the request is denied, FEMA will provide an explanation for the denial.

2. If the request is approved, FEMA will provide technical assistance, as necessary, to ensure the ordinance language is sufficient and consistent with the requirements of the approved community-wide exception.

2. **Accessory Structures.** Exceptions to the elevation or dry floodproofing requirement for accessory structures are allowed in the following circumstances and in accordance with the associated requirements explained below.

   a. The appropriate State or local authority may grant a variance to allow an accessory structure to be wet floodproofed in lieu of the elevation or dry floodproofing requirement, under the following conditions:

      i. The variance must be for an individual accessory structure, as defined in this policy.

      ii. Justification for the variance must be on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the criteria established in 44 C.F.R. 60.6(a) and the variance must include the following additional requirements:

          1. The accessory structure must be located within an A zone (including A, AE, A1-30, AH, AO, AR zones).

          2. The accessory structure must be small and low-cost, as established by local floodplain management authorities, representing a minimal investment, and be designed to have a low-damage potential.

          3. The accessory structure must be used solely for parking or limited storage.

          4. The accessory structure must be anchored to resist flotation, collapse and lateral movement.

          5. The portions of the accessory structure located below the base flood elevation must be constructed with flood-resistant materials.
6. Mechanical and utility equipment for the accessory structure must be elevated or dry floodproofed to or above the base flood elevation.

7. The accessory structure must comply with the floodway encroachment provisions of the NFIP.

8. The accessory structure must be wet floodproofed to protect the structure from hydrostatic pressure. The wet floodproofing design must meet the NFIP minimum openings requirements and must allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

   a. Engineered openings must be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect.

   b. Non-engineered openings must meet or exceed the following minimum requirements:

      i. Include at least two openings

      ii. Net opening area must be at least one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area

      iii. The bottom of the opening must not be higher than one foot above grade

      iv. Screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices are permissible providing they:

          1. Allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters

          2. Do not require manual operation or the presence of a person (or persons) to allow automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

iii. The variance must provide the minimum relief necessary and the community should consider requiring the use of mixed mitigation (e.g., elevating as much as possible before wet floodproofing, wet floodproofing the structure and elevating or dry floodproofing the machinery, equipment and contents).

iv. The variance must require the accessory structure to be used exclusively for parking or limited storage.

v. Although a variance is required, communities are encouraged to include within floodplain management ordinances the criteria for receiving a variance to wet floodproof accessory structures.
vi. Wet floodproofing is not an appropriate mitigation technique in certain circumstances. Due to the increased risk, a variance for wet floodproofing is NOT permissible for:

1. an accessory structure located in a V zone (including V, VE and V1-30 zones). Due to the greater risk associated with waves, accessory structures in V zones must be elevated or dry floodproofed in accordance with the minimum V-zone design and construction requirements of 44 C.F.R. 60.3(e).

2. an accessory structure which, if flooded, would create a threat to public safety, health and welfare. Such structures include, but may not be limited to, structures storing highly volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials. Ideally, these structures should be located outside of the SFHA; however, when located within the SFHA, these structures must be elevated or dry floodproofed in accordance with minimum NFIP requirements.

b. In accordance with the provisions of 44 C.F.R. 60.6(b), a NFIP community may request from FEMA a community-wide exception to allow certain accessory structures to be wet floodproofed in lieu of the elevation or dry floodproofing requirement of the NFIP.

i. The community must submit a request, in writing, to the FEMA Regional Office, including:

1. the nature and extent of, and reasons for, the exception;

2. a description of the extraordinary circumstances and local conditions that cause a hardship or inequity for elevating or dry floodproofing accessory structures;

3. sufficient supporting justification, such as economic, environmental, topographic, hydrologic and hydraulic conditions and data, or other scientific and technical data, as well as data with respect to the impact on public safety and the environment;

4. sufficient supporting information regarding other planning considerations and factors that justify wet floodproofing as an appropriate alternative mitigation design, including flooding characteristics (frequency, duration, depth, etc.), flood warning time, safety and access, emergency operations plans, protection of contents and equipment, as well as any other conditions, requirements or restrictions the community proposes to enforce for an accessory structure to be eligible for the exception to wet floodproof; and
5. the proposed ordinance language for allowing wet floodproofing of certain accessory structures, consistent with the minimum criteria outlined in Section C, Part 2(a)(ii) of this policy.

ii. The proposed community-wide exception request must include the following conditions and restrictions:

1. The accessory structure must be used exclusively for parking or limited storage.

2. Due to the increased risk, wet floodproofing is NOT permissible and elevation or dry floodproofing is required in the SFHA if:

   a. the accessory structure is located in a V zone (including V, VE and V1-30 zones), or

   b. the accessory structure, if flooded, would create a threat to public safety, health and welfare. Such structures include, but may not be limited to, structures storing highly volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials.

iii. The FEMA Regional Office will complete an initial review and evaluation of the request and work with the community to ensure sufficient documentation and justification for the request has been received prior to submitting the request to FEMA Headquarters for final review and approval.

iv. FEMA will prepare a Special Environmental Clearance to determine whether the proposed community-wide exception will have a significant impact on the human environment. The decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, or other environmental documentation, will be made in accordance with FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1.

v. After review and evaluation of the request, FEMA will notify the community whether the requested community-wide exception is approved.

   1. If the request is denied, FEMA will provide an explanation for the denial.

   2. If the request is approved, FEMA will provide technical assistance, as necessary, to ensure the ordinance language is sufficient and consistent with the requirements of the approved community-wide exception.
Signatory’s Name
Title

Date
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REVIEW CYCLE
FEMA Policy # [insert FEA number]: Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures will be reviewed, reissued, revised, or rescinded within 4 years of the issue date.

AUTHORITIES
B. Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management, 42 FR 26951, May 24, 1977

REFERENCES
A. 42 U.S.C. § 4022 and § 4102
B. 44 C.F.R. § 59.1
C. 44 C.F.R. § 60.1
D. 44 C.F.R. § 60.3
E. 44 C.F.R. § 60.6
F. American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 24-14, Flood Resistant Design and Construction, January 2014
H. FEMA 480, National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Management Requirements, February 2005
I. FEMA P-936, Floodproofing Non-Residential Buildings, July 2013
J. FEMA Technical Bulletin 1, Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures, August 2008
M. FEMA Technical Bulletin 7, Wet Floodproofing Requirements, December 1993
O. FEMA Directive 108-1, Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements, August 2016
P. FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, Instruction on Implementation of the Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements, August 2016

DEFINITIONS

Base Flood Elevation – the height of the flood having a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year
Community – any State or area or political subdivision thereof (such as county, city, township, village), or any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or authorized native organization, which has authority to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations for the areas within its jurisdiction

Development – any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials

Dry Floodproofing – A combination of measures that results in a structure, including the attendant utilities and equipment, being watertight with all elements substantially impermeable to the entrance of floodwater and with structural components having the capacity to resist flood loads

Exception – a waiver from the minimum floodplain management requirements found in 44 C.F.R. 60, granted by FEMA and directed to a community, which relieves the community from the requirements, regulation, order or other determination made or issued pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Act, as amended

Floodplain/Floodprone Area – any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source

Floodplain Management – the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage, including but not limited to emergency preparedness plans, flood control works and such state or local regulations, ordinances and building codes which provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction

Hardship – the inability to comply with a floodplain management regulation and make reasonable use of a property because of unusual physical and topographical conditions which are unique to the property, are not caused by the applicant, and pertain to the land and not any structures, its inhabitants or the personal circumstances of the property owner

Local Floodplain Administrator – the local official or other person designated by a community as responsible for administering the floodplain management ordinance

Lowest Floor – the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area of a structure, including a basement. Any NFIP-compliant unfinished or flood-resistant enclosure used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, or storage (in an area other than a basement) is not considered a structure’s lowest floor

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – a program enacted by Congress intended to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures by making federal flood insurance available within communities that adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations
New Construction – (for floodplain management purposes) structures for which the start of construction commences on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by a community and includes all subsequent improvements to the structures.

Opening – open area or space within a wall which meets certain performance characteristics related to allowing the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

Repetitive Loss Structure – a structure covered by an NFIP flood insurance policy that has incurred flood-related damage on 2 occasions during a 10-year period ending on the date of the event for which a second claim is made, in which the cost of repair, on average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the value of the structure at the time of each such flood event.

Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) – the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

State Coordinator – the person, office or agency of the state government designated by the Governor of the state, or by state statute, that assists in the implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program in that state.

Structure – (for floodplain management purposes) a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

Substantial Damage – damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

Substantial Improvement – any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure (or a smaller percentage if established by the community) before the start of construction of the improvement.

Variance – a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a floodplain management regulation.

Wet Floodproofing – use of flood-damage-resistant materials and construction techniques to minimize flood damage to a structure by intentionally allowing flood waters to enter and exit automatically (without human intervention).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION
The efficacy of this policy shall be monitored as a joint effort of local floodplain administrators, NFIP State Coordinators and FEMA through data and documentation available from regular inspections of structures, monitoring and recording of building performance, Community Assistance Visits and Contacts conducted by FEMA or State NFIP personnel, permit and variance records, insurance policy data and the Community Information System (CIS).
FEMA Headquarters will utilize the data and documentation to evaluate of the effectiveness of this policy and inform policy review, reissuance, revision or rescission.

QUESTIONS
Direct questions to FEMA- Floodplain Management Division – [FEMA-Floodplain-Management-Division@fema.dhs.gov].