LOMRs Integrated Into National Flood Layer

The MOD team reached a major milestone last week when it began integrating Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs) into the National Flood Layer (NFL). This is a new capability that begins to allow FEMA and flood managers to work with one authoritative source for flood mapping, the NFL, rather than dealing with the Flood Insurance Rate Map and disparate and numerous revisions and amendments.

For example, Region VI currently has 47 base study projects with 600-700 revisions and more than 1,000 amendments to those studies. So, a user would have to sort through and understand, on average, the base study plus 13 revisions and 20 amendments. Soon you will be able to look on the NFL and see study data with revision data layered on it – it is one stop shopping.

The engineering and mapping communities have long recognized the need and advisability of a one stop flood reference like the NFL, and a more manageable flood management system will increase efficiency for all floodplain managers.

Source: Jeff Tomatore, (703) 960-8800, ext. 6274

MOD Team Participates in ESRI Conference

The MOD team participated in the ESRI International Users Conference in San Diego, California, July 25-29. The ESRI International Users Conference is the largest Geographic Information System (GIS) conference in the world, with approximately 13,000 participants from over 130 countries representing a range of projects and disciplines in the GIS field. The conference featured 2,000 user papers, 150 special interest group meetings, and dozens of regional user group meetings.

Lisa Messano, of MOD team Headquarters outreach staff, Lee Brancheau of Regional Management Center 3, and FEMA staff jointly worked at the Map Mod booth. Because of Brancheau’s geography background and technical expertise in his ongoing support of the advancement of DFIRM tools usage via the MIP, Lee was a great resource. Wei Du, MOD team member from HDM, was on hand the first day at the booth to demonstrate the Field Mitigation Device. (See the related DFIRM 101 Course and Field Mitigation Device article)

“Questions asked at the booth ranged from details about Map Mod’s online tools to inquiries from State and local communities looking for ways to work with FEMA and share data to Map Mod overview questions, said Messano. “We fielded questions regarding partnerships, the MHIP, insurance, how and where to view maps online. It was exciting to see the amount of interest that communities have in Map Mod and add several names to the list of users who receive Map Mod updates via e-mail.”
This week, Regional Management Center (RMC) employees came together in Alexandria to become capable enough to be a trainer for their Regions on study workflow on the Mapping Information Platform (MIP). They posted all of their study projects online and will return to their RMCs with the ability to keep the MIP updated for their Regions until workflow on the MIP is fully deployed to all of the users in their regions.

The week-long training session included RMC MIP study workflow reps (listed at right), MOD team’s MIP deployment team, and FEMA staff.

Source: Kris McLaughlin, (703) 960-8800, ext. 5316

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ESRI

Two posters* were created specifically for the ESRI conference to tell the story of the modernized flood map. The Path to Flood Hazard Modernized Maps, (conceptualized by Mike Howard and Scott McAffee of FEMA, engineered by Jeff Tornatore, and executed by Gisselle Frias of the MOD team) was displayed at the Map Mod booth and in the Map Gallery during the entire week of the conference and focuses on Planning, Tools, Product, Database and the Map Viewer). The DFIRM: A New Generation of Maps was displayed at the Map Mod booth and calls out the reliability of digital flood mapping, ensuring the end user’s confidence in the map product.

The ESRI International Users Conference was an opportunity to meet with mapping partners and expand stakeholder awareness. Staff answered questions and received feedback on Map Mod overall, the DFIRM tools; the Mapping Information Platform; leverage; and partnership opportunities with other Federal agencies and locate, State and tribal entities.

* The posters also are on display in the Customer Care Center (CCC) are of Suite 110 in the Alexandria Office.

Source: Lisa Messano (703) 960-8800, ext. 3048

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Studies Workflow Training Brings RMC Reps Together

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<tr>
<th>REGION OR RMC</th>
<th>PARTICIPANTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEMA Region IV</td>
<td>Laura Algeo</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMC 1</td>
<td>Karen Rooney, Stuart Rooney</td>
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<td>RMC 2</td>
<td>Bo Juza, Daniel Warren</td>
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<td>RMC 3</td>
<td>Sarah Bowen, Mike Mercier</td>
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<td>RMC 4</td>
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<td>RMC 5</td>
<td>Duane Castaldi, Joshua Smith</td>
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<td>RMC 7</td>
<td>Jeff Brizendine, Jeanne Finger</td>
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<td>RMC 8</td>
<td>Jennifer Winters</td>
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<td>RMC 9</td>
<td>Kathleen Schaefer, Michael Skowronek</td>
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<td>RMC 10</td>
<td>Oren Grube, Darcy Rechtien</td>
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The Mapping Information Platform (MIP) is Web-based technology that enables the management, extraction, sharing, and production of Flood Map Modernization data. FEMA celebrated the first anniversary of the MIP Web presence in June 2005. To access the MIP, browse to hazards.fema.gov.

This year, FEMA has released engineering and map production tools and plans to release new MIP capability to help manage map production efforts (700 active studies in FY04 and prior, plus 450 studies in FY05). Through the MIP, mapping partners can access Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) data, engineering and map production tools, and mapping data that will be easier to maintain, helping FEMA protect lives and property through modernized flood mapping data for all communities.

The 2005 releases represent significant steps in the staged delivery of the MIP. In the first half of 2005, FEMA released engineering and map production tools to mapping partners. During the second half of this year, FEMA expects to release workflow and data management capabilities.

Source: Beth Norton, (703) 960-8800, ext. 5293
2005 MIP Milestones

**January and June 2005:** FEMA deployed a Citrix environment with Watershed Information SystEm (WISE)® engineering tools that Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contractors and mapping partners can use to develop engineering data. In June, FEMA added about 50 new features to the WISE modules.

**May 2005:** FEMA provided the DFIRM tools in a Citrix environment so that IDIQ contractors and mapping partners can make DFIRMs more efficiently. These DFIRM tools support FEMA’s goal of reducing the time and effort necessary to create DFIRMs. The DFIRM tools also support Flood Map Modernization goals by providing a solid foundation on which to build flood maps.

2005 MIP Plans

In order to create the next major set of functions in the MIP, FEMA and its partners documented end-to-end workflow for making and maintaining flood maps. Workflow is the automated process that “pushes” steps (such as the “Develop Hydraulic Data” step) in the study process from one user to another. Training on the workflow release began last month. The workflow release will provide a management tool for tracking and reporting study, revision, and amendment project data. It should be fully deployed across the U.S. by the end of this summer. This release will make it easier for IDIQ contractors and mapping partners to forecast their workload and for FEMA, contractors, and mapping partners to report their successes.

Following that, FEMA plans to provide the ability to better manage engineering and mapping data, helping partners be more competitive and helping FEMA protect its investment. The data management release will add the integration of tools with the Release 2.2 workflow steps and streamline the ability to capture and retrieve engineering and mapping data.

**Source:** Kris McLaughlin, 703-960-8800, ext. 5316

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**SharePoint Question Box**

**Question:** How do I know if I have access to SharePoint?  
**Answer:** Browse to https://www.mapmodteam.com. You will receive a login screen. Your user name is your full first and last name with no space in between. Your Password is the same as your Outlook password. The domain is mapmodteam.

If you get in to SharePoint, you will see the screen at right.

If you have problems logging in and need assistance, send an e-mail to SharePoint@mapmodteam.com.

**Question:** How do I get permission to access various sites in SharePoint?  
**Answer:** If you need access to a specific work site, you may request access by sending an e-mail to SharePoint@mapmodteam.com.

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**Transferring Calls to the FMAC**

When transferring calls to Map Specialists in the FEMA Map Assistance Center (FMAC), please use extension 2627. This will ensure that customers are routed to the next available Map Specialist. Failure to comply leads to poor customer service because Map Specialists may already be engaged in other calls or activities. You cooperation with this procedure is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about the FMAC, please contact Scott Schelling at (703) 317-6542.

**Source:** Scott Schelling (703) 317-6542