U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region I
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FEMA

TO: Fay Rubin, University of New Hampshire
FROM: John Grace, FEMA Region I
DATE: March 8, 2012
RE: Response to questions about Piscataqua/Salmon Falls Basin RiskMAP Project
CTP #EMB-2010-CA-0916

The following are the Region's responses to the questions, summarized in bold, from the February 3, 2012 memorandum titled *Piscataqua/Salmon Falls Basin RiskMAP Project – Technical Issues* as well from the February 6, 2012 status meeting conference call.

Can this study be developed as a one FIS for both counties rather than on for each county?

The Region would prefer that two FIS be prepared, one for each county, in order to remain consistent with the rest of the coastal studies concurring being performed in the Region.

AECOM seeks concurrence and approval from UNH and FEMA to move forward with the coastal portion of the FIS based on their methods and assumptions.

Based on the Region's review, AECOM's approach is consistent with the Appendix D of the Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners. Therefore, the Region approves of AECOM moving forward with the coastal portion of the FIS using the approach they propose and any updates from below. Please keep the Region updated on any changes to the proposed approach and/or any engineering judgment used.

AECOM seeks confirmation from FEMA that STARR's updated still water analysis was appropriately reviewed by an independent team and that FEMA supports moving forward with STARR's analysis.

During the February 27, 2012 transect review conference call, Kerry Bogdan provided the most recent version of the *Draft Updated Tidal Profiles for New England Coastline* dated February 6, 2012 to Fay Rubin via email for use. This report is currently being reviewed and finalized by FEMA Headquarters (Jon Westcott) and should be finalized in a few weeks. Any questions on the report should be posed to Jon Westcott with a CC to the Region.

AECOM is proposing a new Task Order to perform a comparative evaluation of the Seavey Island gage versus the gage at Fort Point in New Castle NH, focusing on surge elevations. AECOM will provide a budget proposal if the Region is interested.

At this time the Region does not have additional funding to support this new Task Order for this project.

AECOM will identify and map Primary Frontal Dune (PFD) according to the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Guidelines Update Final Draft dated February, 2007, based on LiDAR data, field reconnaissance data, and aerial imagery. If the Massachusetts CZM methodology is preferred, and is currently being used for the rest of the coastal studies, they will prepare a change request.

The Region would prefer that AECOM uses the Massachusetts CZM methodology to remain consistent with the adjacent studies. Please keep the Region updated on any engineering judgment used.

AECOM's examination of the tidal profiles revealed a very close agreement between the 1% event and the 1978 blizzard. AECOM believes it will significantly enhance study results and credibility with stakeholders if a subjective comparison is performed between the Blizzard of 1978 and the floodplain developed from this study. UNH would like to develop a comparison with assistance from AECOM. They believe a useful comparison could be performed with approximately one person-month of labor.

At this time the Region does not have additional funding to support this comparison.