National Waterways Conference
2015 Legislative Summit

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March 18, 2015
FEMA’s Focus and Priorities

FEMA Strategic Plan
2014–2018

A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management

Foster Innovation & Learning

1. PRIORITY 1
   Be Survivor-Centric in Mission & Program Delivery

2. PRIORITY 2
   Become an Expeditionary Organization

3. PRIORITY 3
   Posture & Build Capability for Catastrophic Disasters

4. PRIORITY 4
   Enable Disaster Risk Reduction Nationally

5. PRIORITY 5
   Strengthen FEMA’s Organizational Foundation

5 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2 STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES
Enable Disaster Risk Reduction Nationally

4.1 Provide Credible and Actionable Data and Tools to Support Risk Informed Decision-Making

4.2 Incentivize and Facilitate Investments to Manage Current and Future Risk

4.3 Enhance the Effectiveness, Financial Stability, and Affordability of the NFIP
Updating Federal Flood Risk Standards
Executive Order 11988

- Issued in May 1977, governing federal actions in the floodplain.
- In 1978, the Water Resources Council (WRC) issued Floodplain Management Guidelines, with broad instructions for federal agencies:
  - Directed federal agencies to evaluate practicable alternatives to locating an action in the floodplain;
  - Established an 8-step decision making process.
Executive Order 13690

- On January 30th, President signed EO 13690, which amends EO 11988 and establishes the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

- On February 5th, FEMA, on behalf of the MitFLG, published a draft of revisions to the 1978 Floodplain Management Guidelines.

- Requires agencies to develop Implementation Plans.

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**Step 1:** Determine if proposed action is in the FFRMS floodplain

- **NO**
- **YES**

**Step 2:** Early public review

**Step 3:** Identify and evaluate alternatives to locating in the FFRMS floodplain

**FFRMS:** Use one of three approaches to establish the FFRMS floodplain elevation and flood hazard area (rather than using the 1% annual chance flood, which was the original default under 11988)

**FFRMS:** Where possible, develop alternatives using nature-based approaches

- No action alternative
- In the FFRMS floodplain
- Not in FFRMS floodplain

**Step 4:** Identify impacts of proposed action

**Step 5:** Minimize harm and restore and preserve natural and beneficial values

**Step 6:** Reevaluate alternatives

- Limit action - Return to Step 3
- In FFRMS floodplain
- No action

**Step 7:** Findings and public explanation

**Step 8:** Implement proposed action

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Does the action have:
- a) impacts in the FFRMS floodplain, or
- b) indirectly support FFRMS floodplain development?

- **NO**
- **YES**
Applying the Standard

Does Apply

- Federal agencies will continue to implement Executive Order 11988, but replacing the 100-year base in the Executive Order with the process identified in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

Does Not Apply

- Executive Order 13690 **does not prohibit building in the floodplains.**
- EO 13690 **does not apply to private investments** in structures, facilities, or homes.
- The Standard **will not affect flood insurance premiums or the requirements for participation in the NFIP.** No change to:
  - community floodplain management requirements,
  - FEMA’s flood mapping standards,
  - FEMA’s levee accreditation regulations (44 CFR 65.10), or
  - rating/pricing practices of the NFIP.
Federal agencies will be given the **flexibility to select the best approach** for establishing the elevation and flood hazard area used when implementing Executive Order 11988 as amended by Executive Order 13690:

- Utilizing best-available, actionable data and methods that integrate current and future changes in flooding based on science;

- Two or three feet of elevation (depending on criticality), above the 100-year, or 1%-annual-chance, flood elevation; or

- 500-year, or 0.2%-annual-chance, flood elevation.
On behalf of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG), FEMA is hosting listening sessions to gather feedback on the implementation of the FFRMS.

The MitFLG will also accept written comments via:

**Federal eRulemaking Portal**
Search for the notice in docket ID FEMA-2015-0006

**Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier**
Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency,
8NE, 500 C Street, SW,
Washington, DC 20472-3100
“It is the policy of the United States to improve the resilience of communities and federal assets against the impacts of flooding. These impacts are anticipated to increase over time due to the effects of climate change and other threats. Losses caused by flooding affect the environment, our economic prosperity, and public health and safety, each of which affects our national security.”

- Executive Order 13690