

Levee Seclusion Method

The purpose of this document is to define an option that will enable Regions to resume and finalize, in part, Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) that have been delayed pending finalization of FEMA's Levee Analysis and Mapping Procedures for those areas not affected by non-accredited levees. This option would entail:

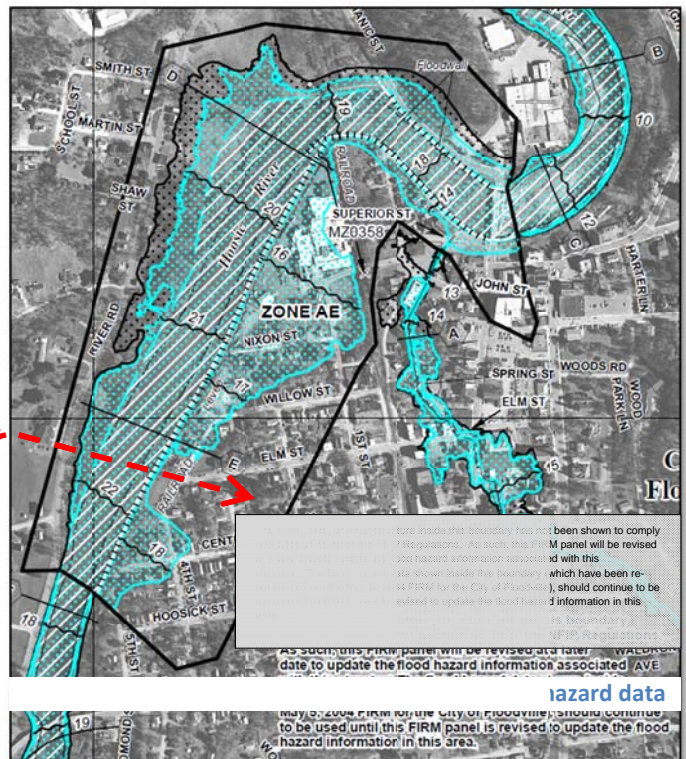
- 1) Fencing off and clearly identifying the impact area associated with the non-accredited levee, dike or other structure. This will often require that a rudimentary Natural Valley Analysis be performed to determine the true levee impact area.
- 2) Transferring the effective flood hazard information from within the levee impact area (exactly as it is shown on the current FIRM) onto to the new/revised FIRM.
- 3) Committing to a future revision of the FIRM panel to address the non-accredited structure's flood hazards, while reminding map users that this information remains in effect until such time as the FIRM is revised when the LAMP protocols are finalized.

This would allow all non-levee elements of an ongoing study to move forward for use in flood insurance and floodplain management, while not changing the flood hazards associated with the on-hold levee impact area by maintaining them in a static state exactly as shown on the currently published FIRM.

As shown in Figure 1, this particular option leverages a map note placed on the FIRM panel to alert the user that the flood hazard associated with a specific levee are exactly as shown on the formerly printed FIRM and are subject to change once the LAMP mapping protocols are finalized. The verbiage for the map note (shown in Figure 1) is as follows:

ATTENTION: The levee, dike, or other structure inside this boundary has not been shown to comply with Section 65.10 of the NFIP Regulations. As such, this FIRM panel will be revised at a later date to update the flood hazard information associated with this structure. The flood hazard data shown inside this boundary (which have been re-published from the May 5, 2004 FIRM for the City of Floodville), should continue to be used until this FIRM panel is revised to update the flood hazard information in this area.

FIRM note for seclusion area



If the revised study is also undergoing a vertical datum conversion, the parenthetical statement in the note above will need to read as follows: "(which have been re-published from the May 5, 2004 FIRM for the City of Floodville after being converted from NGVD 29 to NAVD 88)".

This seclusion method could be applied whenever a study is on hold because it contains currently non-accredited levees; levees that are to be de-accredited; or levees with expiring PALs. Using this process to resume flood studies is intended to be a stop-gap measure that allows other in-process flood hazard study and restudy data not associated with the levee impact area to move forward while the LAMP protocols are being finalized.