CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable Kerry J. Donley
Mayor, City of Alexandria
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Case No.: 97-03-121P
Community: City of Alexandria, Virginia
Community No.: 515519
Panel Affected: 0005 D
Effective Date of This Revision: OCT 10 1997

102-D-A

Dear Mayor Donley:

This responds to a request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revise the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community in accordance with Part 65 of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations. In a letter dated July 28, 1997, Mr. Philip C. Champagne, P.E., Dewberry and Davis, requested that FEMA revise the FIRM to show the effects of construction of a 75-foot-wide rectangular channel along Backlick Run from approximately 2,000 feet downstream of South Van Dorn Street to approximately 200 feet downstream of an unnamed bridge. This request follows up on a Conditional Letter of Map Revision issued on February 9, 1996.

All data required to complete our review of this request were submitted with letters from Mr. Champagne.

We have completed our review of the submitted data and the flood data shown on the effective FIRM. We have revised the FIRM to modify the elevations and floodplain boundary delineations of the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood) along Backlick Run. As a result of the modifications, the base flood elevations (BFEs) for Backlick Run decreased and the width of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the area that would be inundated by the base flood, decreased. The modifications are shown on the enclosed annotated copy of FIRM Panel(s) 0005 D. This Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) hereby revises the above-referenced panel(s) of the effective FIRM dated May 15, 1991.

The modifications are effective as of the date shown above. The map panel(s) as listed above and as modified by this letter will be used for all flood insurance policies and renewals issued for your community.

The following table is a partial listing of existing and modified BFEs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Existing BFE (feet)*</th>
<th>Modified BFE (feet)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximately 1,600 feet downstream</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of South Van Dorn Street</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximately 100 feet downstream</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of unnamed bridge</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum, rounded to the nearest whole foot
Public notification of the modified BEFs will be given in the Alexandria Journal and the Alexandria Gazette Packet on or about October 23 and October 30, 1997. A copy of this notification is enclosed. In addition, a notice of changes will be published in the Federal Register. Within 90 days of the second publication in the Alexandria Journal and the Alexandria Gazette Packet, a citizen may request that FEMA reconsider the determination made by this LOMR. Any request for reconsideration must be based on scientific or technical data. All interested parties are on notice that, until the 90-day period elapses, the determination to modify the BEFs presented in this LOMR may itself be modified.

Because this LOMR will not be printed and distributed to primary users, such as local insurance agents and mortgage lenders, your community will serve as a repository for these new data. We encourage you to disseminate the information reflected by this LOMR throughout the community, so that interested persons, such as property owners, local insurance agents, and mortgage lenders, may benefit from the information. We also encourage you to prepare a related article for publication in your community’s local newspaper. This article should describe the assistance that officials of your community will give to interested persons by providing these data and interpreting the NFIP maps.

We will not physically revise and republish the FIRM and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community to reflect the modifications made by this LOMR at this time. When changes to the previously cited FIRM panel(s) and FIS report warrant physical revision and republication in the future, we will incorporate the modifications made by this LOMR at that time.

This LOMR is based on minimum floodplain management criteria established under the NFIP. Your community is responsible for approving all floodplain development, and for ensuring all necessary permits required by Federal or State law have been received. State, county, and community officials, based on knowledge of local conditions and in the interest of safety, may set higher standards for construction in the SFHA. If the State, county, or community has adopted more restrictive or comprehensive floodplain management criteria, these criteria take precedence over the minimum NFIP criteria.

The basis of this LOMR is, in whole or in part, a channel-modification project. NFIP regulations, as cited in Paragraph 60.3(b)(7), require that communities ensure that the flood-carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained. This provision is incorporated into your community’s existing floodplain management regulations. Consequently, the ultimate responsibility for maintenance of the modified channel rests with your community.

This determination has been made pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and is in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Public Law 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65. Pursuant to Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, communities participating in the NFIP are required to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed NFIP criteria. These criteria are the minimum requirements and do not supersede any State or local requirements of a more stringent nature. This includes adoption of the effective FIRM to which the regulations apply and the modifications described in this LOMR.
If you have any questions regarding floodplain management regulations for your community or the NFIP in general, please contact the Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) for your community. Information on the CCO for your community may be obtained by contacting the Director, Mitigation Division of FEMA in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at (215) 931-5750. If you have any technical questions regarding this LOMR, please contact Ms. Priscilla Scruggs of our staff in Washington, DC, either by telephone at (202) 646-4155 or by facsimile at (202) 646-4596.

Sincerely,

Matthew B. Miller
Frederick H. Sharrocks, Jr., Chief
Hazard Identification Branch
Mitigation Directorate

Enclosure(s)

cc: Mr. Tom O’Kane ✓
Director of Transportation &
Environmental Services
City of Alexandria

Mr. Philip C. Champagne, P.E.
Dewberry and Davis
CHANGES ARE MADE IN DETERMINATIONS OF BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS FOR THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, UNDER THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

On May 15, 1991, the Federal Emergency Management Agency identified Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, through issuance of a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The Mitigation Directorate has determined that modification of the elevations of the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood) for certain locations in this community is appropriate. The modified base flood elevations (BFEs) revise the FIRM for the community.

The changes are being made pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and are in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Public Law 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65.

A hydraulic analysis was performed to incorporate the effects of a channel construction project and has resulted in a decrease in SFHA width, and decreased BFEs for Backlick Run. The aforementioned channelized portion of Backlick Run contains the base flood. The table below indicates existing and modified BFEs for selected locations along the affected lengths of the flooding source(s) cited above.

<table>
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Under the above-mentioned Acts of 1968 and 1973, the Mitigation Directorate must develop criteria for floodplain management. To participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the community must use the modified BFEs to administer the floodplain management measures of the NFIP. These modified BFEs will also be used to calculate the appropriate flood insurance premium rates for new buildings and their contents and for the second layer of insurance on existing buildings and contents.

Upon the second publication of notice of these changes in this newspaper, any person has 90 days in which he or she can request, through the Chief Executive Officer of the community, that the Mitigation Directorate reconsider the determination. Any request for reconsideration must be based on knowledge of changed conditions or new scientific or technical data. All interested parties are on notice that until the 90-day period elapses, the Mitigation Directorate's determination to modify the BFEs may itself be changed.

Any person having knowledge or wishing to comment on these changes should immediately notify:

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Mayor, City of Alexandria  
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Alexandria, Virginia 22314